

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY GMAC
BOWL CHAMPIONS

(Mr. RAHALL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, last night's GMAC Bowl in Mobile, Alabama could have carried a warning from the Surgeon General: Not recommended for those with heart conditions. In the end, with all due respect to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES), the best team won.

In only its fifth year, the Marshall University Thundering Herd stampeded over East Carolina. Although the Herd was down 38-8 at half-time, the enthusiasm of Marshall's fans did not waiver.

But Marshall rallied in the third quarter and charged on in the fourth. When time expired, the game was tied at 51. The noble opponents battled through two overtimes before Byron Leftwich connected on a pass to Josh Davis, ending the contest and securing the laurels of victory for our Thundering Herd. As the headline in the Huntington Herald Dispatch reads this morning, "Miracle in Mobile."

I congratulate Marshall's tenacious players and coaches, and applaud its faithful fans. Few football programs have suffered as severe a loss, struggled so valiantly, and risen to such heights, all in the course of 30 years.

During half time, Coach Bobby Pruett, who hails from my hometown of Beckley, West Virginia, talked with his team of belief and faith. It is a lesson we should all remember, not only in times of need, but in our everyday lives.

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RURAL EQUITY PAYMENT INDEX
REFORM ACT

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I advise Members that today I am introducing the Rural Equity Payment Index Reform Act, a bill that will address the difference in reimbursement levels between urban and rural physicians and other health professionals. The formulas presently used by the Medicare program to reimburse these health professionals for beneficiaries' medical care do not accurately measure the cost of providing services; and, consequently, Medicare currently pays rural providers less than it should for equal work.

According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, "physician work" is the amount of time, skill and intensity a physician puts into patients' visits. Physicians and other health care providers in rural areas put in as much or even more time, skill and intensity into a patient visit as do physicians in urban areas. Yet, rural physicians are paid less for their work.

This is not only unfair, it is discriminatory.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to consider cosponsoring this legislation. We do not take it away from the urban health care providers. We do adjust upward the formula for rural areas.

TRIBUTE TO MELVIN SMITH

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Melvin Smith of Ellicott City, Maryland, who is retiring after more than 33 years of distinguished service with the United Parcel Service, the UPS. Mel was born on September 30, 1946, in Los Angeles, California. He attended Fremont High School and Los Angeles City College, and served in the Vietnam War.

He began his 33-year UPS career in 1968 as a package car driver in southern California. In 1976, Mel began his management career when he was promoted to full-time supervisor in the feeder transportation department. In 1981, Mel was promoted to hub division manager, and in 1993 he was promoted to district manager. Before Mr. Smith's retirement, he served as the chief operating officer of the UPS Atlanta district serving Maryland, Delaware, and parts of West Virginia.

Mel has always been active in numerous charities. In Maryland, Mr. Smith has served in a leadership capacity for the United Way, the Baltimore Urban League, and the Baltimore Chapter of the NAACP.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mel Smith, his wife Debra Ann, and his entire family. Mel, enjoy your retirement.

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to speak out of order for 5 minutes and to revise and extend her remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
DAVID E. BONIOR, MEMBER OF
CONGRESS

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today, and I do not want to use the word "last," but just in terms of chronology, today is the last day that our great minority whip, Democratic whip of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) will serve in that capacity while the House is in session.

We will benefit for years to come from his service, 10 years, an historic 10 years as Democratic whip of the House, 4 years as chief deputy whip before that. That incredible experience is marked not only by longevity, but by the quality of his service. Leaders for all time to come will benefit from the example that he has set as a leader. Working families into perpetuity in our country have benefited and will continue to benefit from his championing of their issues. They have no

greater champion. Working families in America have no greater champion than DAVID BONIOR. He has been a model leader. He has been a tireless worker for workers. We all owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude. I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR).

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. PELOSI. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I join in this tribute to a career of remarkable service as a Member of this Congress, as our chief deputy whip, and as our whip for the last 10 years to my friend, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), who will be stepping down from that position of whip and will be going on to run a successful race for Michigan. I have supported him in everything he has ever run for, and I plan to continue to support him. I have never been more proud of a public servant.

I have to say to the Members of this House and to the public that may be listening, this is an individual that all of us can be proud that his district sent him to Washington because he never, never once veered from the track of taking care of the needs of his district. And as the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) has pointed out, on behalf of working families, he made it part of our agenda, he made it part of our lexicon, he made it part of our principles and part of our morality. He has done it in almost every meeting that I have been in. He has done it on our motions to recommit.

We are not always given the best forum here to pursue these issues, but he has made sure that every opportunity we had, we did do it. Why? Because of his strong convictions about a notion of economic and social justice in this country, that those individuals who get up and go to work every day and work hard, that they ought to have the rewards to be able to support their families. If they fall on economic hard times, there ought to be an income supplement program so they do not have to lose their car or house or take their children out of school.

Mr. Speaker, many people we are seeing in this recession have worked 15, 20, 30 years, and now they find themselves unemployed. He has been a champion.

I had the pleasure of traveling with DAVID to Central America in pursuit of social and economic justice in Central America at a time when the violence was unbelievable. Many people forget what was taking place in Central America, the murder of American citizens, of religious individuals, of the archbishop, of so many people who were simply trying to get along, trying to live a life in Central America. He spent an incredible amount of his energy trying to bring the peace process around. We were eventually successful in Nicaragua, in El Salvador, and Guatemala trying to stop the violence. The